

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151051

LIMDIS USEEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 9686 ACTION SECSTATE 23 JUN 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9686

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, (WFC)

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY: THE MOST NOTEWORTHY EVENT DURING THIRD DAY
OF WFC SESSION WAS ADOPTION OF RELATIVELY INFLEXIBLE
STANCE BY EC, WHO QUIBBLED AND CARPED THEIR WAY THROUGH
A MARATHON DRAFTING EXERCISE. EUROPEAN ATTITUDE RESULTED
IN FRANK CRITICISM BY WFC PRESIDENT TANCO AND LDC
REPRESENTATIVES, ESPECIALLY KENYAN AND NIGERIAN AGRI-
CULTURAL MINISTERS. THE EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATED
VALUE OF ADOPTING A FORTHCOMING DEMEANOR AND FLEXIBLE
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PAGE 02 STATE 151051

APPROACH IN NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS.

1. THIRD DAY OF THE SESSION WAS OCCUPIED BY A MARATHON
19-HOUR DRAFTING SESSION IN WHICH US PARTICIPATION WAS
CHAIRLED BY DALE HATHAWAY. BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS
DURING SESSION, THE DOCUMENT WHICH EMERGED IS RELATIVELY
INNOCUOUS AND UNDISTINGUISHED. OPERATIVE PREAMBLE CON-

TAINING IDEOLOGICALLY-ORIDNTED AMENDMENTS OFFERED
BY USSR WILL BE TAKCLED BY DRAFTING GROUP AT COMMENCEMENT
OF FOURTH DAY.

2. MOST NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENT WAS ATTITUDE OF
EUROPEANS, WHO BECAME INCREASINGLY MORE INFLEXIBLE
AND NEGATIVE AS DRAFTING PROGRESSED. EUROPEANS WERE
REPRESENTED BY UK UNDERSECRETARY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOP-
MENT FOGARTY, WITH DAVIES AND EC REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE
MALVE AT HIS SHOULDER AND PROVIDING MOST OF THE
SUGGESTED CHANGES. THEY INTRODUCED AMENDMENTS WHICH
WERE EITHER EMASCULATING, QUIBBLING OR POLEMIC ON
VIRTUALLY EVERY PARAGRAPH OF SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY
ON FOOD AID, SECURITY AND FOOD TRADE. IN SEVERAL
CASES NO COMPROMISE WAS POSSIBLE AND EC COUNCIL
MEMBERS' RESERVATIONS ARE RECORDED IN FOOTNOTES.
IN MOST CASES JAPAN CHIMED IN AT END OF DISCUSSION TO
ASSOCIATE WITH EUROPEANS. EVEN JAPANESE, HOWEVER, WERE
UNABLE TO ACCEPT AMENDMENT WHICH MARKED THE LOW POINT
OF DISCUSSIONS, WHEN UK SUGGESTED DELETING PHRASES "TO
PROVIDE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" AND "INCREASED ACCESS TO
DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS" FROM
FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "NEGOTIATIONS OF THE UNCTAD
INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES BE PURSUED, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO FOODSTUFFS, AND THAT COUNTRIES
PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE
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PAGE 03 STATE 151051

NEGOTIATIONS REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN THE CONTEXT OF A PROGRESSIVE
LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE, INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ACCESS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
MARKETS AND AN IMPROVED FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONDUCT OF
TRADE". ATMOSPHERE ALSO SUFFERED FROM DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES OVERBEARING STEADY STREAM OF CYNICAL AND
BELITTILING SIDE COMMENTARY FROM MALVE AND DAVIES.

3. AT 3 A.M. CONCLUSION OF DAYS' DISCUSSION, COUNCIL
PRESIDENT TANCO ASKED EC REPRESENTATIVES,
ON A PERSONAL BASIS BUT ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHER COUNCIL
MEMBERS, FOR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE COMMUNITY HAD
TAKEN SUCH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE. TANCO STATED HE
UNDERSTOOD THAT DOMESTIC POLICIES LIMITED ABILITY TO
ACT, BUT THAT IT DID NOT PRECLUDE JOINING IN EXPRESSIONS
OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH IMPLIED CONCERN FOR DDC
PROBLEMS. FOGARTY REPLIED THAT EC POLICIES HAD BEEN
CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED AND ARTICULATED, AND THAT THERE-
FORE HE WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT ANY FORMULATION WHICH MIGHT
IMPLY THE WRONGNESS OF SUCH POLICIES. MALVE STATED
EUROPEANS MUST BE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE OF PRESENT

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS, ADDING THAT PRESENT STANCE IS FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES "OWN GOOD". SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY MINISTERS OF KENYA AND NIGERIA AND REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH REACTED SHARPLY, CONTRASTING EC ATTITUDES AT WFC WITH UK ATTITUDE AT RECENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

4. EUROPEANS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT, WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS, RAPPORTEUR'S DRAFT COMMUNIQUE. WHY THEY DIDN'T IS UNCERTAIN, BUT STEMS AT LEAST IN PART FROM PERSONALITIES ON THE DELEGATION, U.S. AND OTHER GRAIN EXPORTERS' PRESSURE CONCERNING FOOD SECURITY, SKEPTICISM CONCERNING VALUE
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PAGE 04 STATE 151051

OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND PIQUE AT GROWING CRITICISM OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE POLICIES BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. AT ANY RATE, CONTRASTING EUROPEAN BEHAVIOR ENHANCED IMAGE OF U.S. AS SYMPATHETIC TO LDC CONCERNS AND HELPED GREATLY TO SIMPLIFY DELEGATION'S TASK IN FEW CASES WHERE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE GAVE US DIFFICULTIES. THE EVENTS DEMONSTRATE VALUE OF FORTHCOMING DEMEANOR AND FLEXIBILITY OF RESPONSE IN DRAFTING ENVIRONMENT DURING NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS. THROUGH US AND EUROPEAN POSITIONS ON MOST ISSUES ARE NOT RPT NOT TERRIBLY DIFFERENT, THE PICTURE WHICH EMERGED FROM THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY WERE CASE, IS QUITE STRIKING.
STULL.
UNQUOTE VANCE.

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